

# Project V.O.I.C.E

**Goal:** To educate, inspire and entertain through poetry (Lloyd, 2009).

Project V.O.I.C.E is a team of poet educators that travel globally to schools, teaching students about poetry. They do this through live performance leading into a workshop.

## What Happens When Project V.O.I.C.E Visits?

### Step 1:

Kay and Kaye, as poet educators, start every Project V.O.I.C.E workshop with a live poetry performance to introduce themselves and the power that spoken word poetry has. The audience comes out of this performance understanding how emotions can be used to tell a story more effectively. A trend that arises from the initial performances of the workshop is the educators instill a feeling in the audience that they have the power to change the world and that spoken word poetry opens the doors to do so (Kay 2011).



(American Spoken Word Poets Sarah Kay and Phil Kaye, 2013)

### Step 3:

At the end of the workshops students have the opportunity to stand up and share their creations and take on spoken word poetry with their peers and Project V.O.I.C.E. Students have shared that they came into the workshop assuming it would be boring but ended up being inspired and excited to see people like them sharing interesting and fun poetry (Kay 2011).

## Lessons Learned From Workshops

These workshops not only push the audience to approach poetry from a new angle but teaches them concrete strategies to uniquely and powerfully share their ideas. Project V.O.I.C.E helps more than just poets: they help anyone from kindergarteners to business professionals confidently explore their lived experiences (Lloyd 2009).

### Connection to the Human experience

Storytelling, as seen through history and through the work of Kaye and Kay, is the basis of how we communicate and share human experiences. Storytelling is important because it breaks down physical, language, and cultural barriers. The human experience will be improved through new ways of collaboration between people from all walks of life.



(Poetry-Graphic, 2021)

### Step 2:

Subsequent to the live performance, Project V.O.I.C.E leads a workshop where students and professionals work together to brainstorm ideas about what they want to talk about and the means through which they want to convey it. This pushes people beyond their comfort zone and catalyzes learning. This kind of workshop is new to most students because of the freedom they are given and the non-traditional end result, spoken word poetry.

These workshops walk students through writing short poems in non-traditional ways. (Kaye, 2011). One of the activities consists of students reading a passage then writing down the sentence that was the most powerful to them. This shows students the power that only a few words can have, encouraging students to think about what they want to convey and how they can do it (Lloyd 2009).



(Sarah Kay and Phil Kaye of Project V.O.I.C.E to Visit Deer Park High School, 2019)

Kaye and Kay teach students how to have empathy for someone else's narrative. This extends beyond poetry and into life skills. They teach students to open their mind to different ways of formulating, telling and listening to stories (Sheila, 2019)

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